their present sites and located outside the town limits, at least after the next auction sale for the ensuing biennium was over.

Thirdly, the Member prayed that the Changanachery-Vazhur road might be widened and extended from the landing to meet the M. C. road to a length of 6 furlongs and to a width of 24 ft. and thence extended to the limits of the town to a width of 18 ft. and the entire portion metalled.

He further prayed that the portion of the road as far as it met the Kottayam-Kumili road at the 16th mile might be metalled and kept in good repair.

Lastly, he prayed that a canal from Alleppey to Changanachery might be opened to promote the expansion of commerce between the two places. That was greatly desired by the people of Changanachery and those of Ambalapuzha, two important taluks of the State. He represented that the route now used by the people was a circuitous one and was often subject to dangers during monsoon and flood seasons as it lay along deep water. If the alignment of the canal could be taken through the vast extent of Kandukrishi lands intervening, the work would be easier and less costly than was usually anticipated.

91. Some needs of the town of Changanachery.

Mr. Chacko Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) represented the necessity for the opening of a canal through the Kusakkudi *punja* fields. The opening of such a canal, he urged, would enable the boats loaded with goods to approach the market nearer and to carry on trade. At present, they stood at a considerable distance from the market and caused serious hardship to merchants and other traders who came to the market with goods. He added that, as the place was already inspected by the Dewan in company with the Chief Engineer and the local Municipal President, there was no difficulty on his part to bring home to Government the intensity of the feelings of the trading public in this matter.

The Member next prayed for the local Travellers' Bungalow and its site being handed over to the Municipality for use as a recreation ground. He said that it was not his intention to labour the point, since the previous speaker, Mr. Thoma Kurien, had dwelt at length on the same question.

Thirdly, the Member referred to the necessity for a godown at the market landing and said that in the absence of such a shed travellers in general and merchants in particular were undergoing great hardship. With reference to the Dewan's reply to the representation on the subject at the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly, to the effect that the work could not be undertaken by the Government on account of the heavy cost involved, the Member pointed out that the expenditure on such a highly necessary work should not be grudged in view of the large income derived from the taluk in the shape of Income-tax, etc.

The Member next prayed that the narrow portion of land to the east of the Changanachery market might be widened on account of the difficulties experienced by the public during market days. He pointed out that that was a fact known to the Dewan and also to the present Chief Engineer while he was Division Officer, Kottayam, and that the latter had recommended the work. The Member concluded by observing that the policy of the Government in laying down that local needs should be attended to by Municipalities was not a sound one.

Lastly, the Member prayed that, when the Travancore State-aided bank became a *fait accompli*, steps might be taken for opening a branch of it at Changanachery.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the handing over of the site of the Travellers' Bungalow to the Municipal Council to be used as a recreation ground, you say that the orders of the Government have been held in abeyance. We had to keep the order in abeyance because there was an idea of handing over the camp shed and premises for the local Nair Service Society's High School. Until we arranged for another camp shed, we considered that this matter should be kept in abeyance. But, on further consideration, it seems to me that this order need not be kept in abeyance, since the handing over of the camp shed to the Nair Service Society now depends upon the construction

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of a camp shed at Changanachery, in pursuance of the suggestion of that Society that it will pay for the construction of the camp shed on another site.

With regard to the Puvakkattu *chira* that is a work which the Municipality must take up.

Mr. Thoma Kurian.—The Municipality has got no money.

Dewan.—The Municipality should send an application to Government for a loan. It should not divest itself of all responsibility. In regard to the tank for the use of the Mahomedans of Changanachery, the Municipal Council represented to the Government that they were unable to defray the expenses and the Government then gave them a grant. Similarly, the Government will be in a position to give a grant in regard to the Puvakkattu *chira*.

Member.—This tank is used by all people. It is on the road side.

Dewan.—It does not require anything except a few landing ghats. There is no mud or slush.

Then, in regard to the location of liquor shops outside municipal limits, that matter is now engaging the attention of the Excise Committee. It is for the Excise Committee to say what policy should be adopted in regard to toddy and arrack shops. We are awaiting the report of the Excise Committee, and Government will consider the question very carefully on its receipt.

As regards the Changanachery-Vazhur road, the Chief Engineer says that the road requires improvements and that it will be done.

As for the opening of the Changanachery-Alleppey canal, the reply has been already given in connection with other representations made.

The opening of a branch of the State-aided Bank at Changanachery is a matter to be decided by the State-aided Bank itself. It must first of all begin to work. It has not yet commenced work. Once it commences work, it should decide for itself whether it should have a branch at Changanachery.

With regard to the opening of a canal through the Kusakkudi fields, it is reported that the canal at that portion is likely to cost a great deal. I will ask the Chief Engineer to investigate that matter. I do not exactly remember the place now. The Chief Engineer has not investigated it and I am not in a position to know what the cost of it will be. It is reported that it will cost about Rs. 83,000. But I wish to see the area when I go to Changanachery next.

Regarding the construction of a shed at the landing, Government have ordered that sheds should be constructed.

As regards the market, that is again a matter which concerns the Municipal Council. The Council should place a scheme before Government. Until the Municipal Council does it, Government cannot say anything.

92. Certain needs of the Alwaye town.

Mr. M. P. Augustine (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) observed that all the Municipalities in the State, except two, had Presidents elected by the members of the respective Councils and that he could not understand why that privilege was denied to his Council. He requested that the Government be pleased to extend to the Municipality the right of electing its own President.

The other subject to which the Member drew the pointed attention of Government was that the judges of the Alwaye Village Panchayat court were not selected from among those living within town limits. Of the 5 judges of the Panchayat court, 2 were nominated by Government from those living four and five miles away from the jurisdiction of the court. The Member regretted his inability to understand the wisdom of appointing persons from such distant villages when there were men of light and leading in the town itself, well acquainted with local conditions. Similarly, he complained against the nomination, as Municipal Councillors, of people from rural areas. He requested that Government be pleased to make it a rule to nominate only residents of the town to the above representative institutions. He also suggested, for the consideration of the Government, the extension of the jurisdiction of the Alwaye Village Panchayat court over some more *pakuthies*.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly